

Listing of the Claims

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A process for preparation of [an] a color stable organic compound product from a finished organic compound selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₆ carboxylic acids, ketones having boiling points from 154°C to 170°C, and esters having boiling points from about 168°C to about 250°C, the process comprising combining the finished organic compound with water under conditions of agitation to form a mixture of the finished organic compound and water comprising from about 100 ppm to about 50,000 ppm water to produce the color stable organic compound product, wherein the color stable organic compound product has ~~a stable~~ an APHA color value of 15 or less after being boiled for at least one hour at one atmosphere of pressure.

2. (currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the water and the finished organic compound are combined to produce the color stable organic product at a temperature of about 0°C to about 160°C

3. (currently amended) The process of claim 2 wherein the ~~water is combined with the organic compound under conditions of agitation~~ include stirring.

4. (currently amended) The process of claim 3 wherein the color stable organic compound product has ~~a stable~~ an APHA color value of 12 or less after being boiled for at least one hour at one atmosphere of pressure.

5. (currently amended) The process of claim 4 wherein the finished organic compound is a C₁ to C₆ carboxylic acid.

6. (currently amended) The process of claim 5 wherein the finished organic compound ~~carboxylic acid~~ is butyric acid.

7. (currently amended) The process of claim 6 wherein the color stable organic compound product ~~mixture of butyric acid and the water~~ comprises from 100 ppm to about 10,000 ppm water.

8. (currently amended) The process of claim 7 wherein the water and the finished organic compound are combined to produce the color stable organic compound product at a temperature of about 20°C to about 50°C

9. (currently amended) The process of claim 8 wherein the color stable organic compound product mixture of butyric acid and the water comprises from 500 ppm to about 1,000 ppm water.

10. (currently amended) A process for preparation of [an] a color stable organic compound ~~having a stable APHA color value of 15 or less~~, selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₆ carboxylic acids, ketones having boiling points from 154°C to 170°C, and esters having boiling points from about 168°C to about 250°C, comprising removing a crude product stream comprising the organic compound from a reaction zone in which the organic compound is prepared, and introducing the crude product stream into a distillation column having a lower portion and an upper portion, wherein the upper portion and the lower portion are maintained at a temperature of about 23°C to about 250°C and at a pressure of about 10.1 kPa to about 202.6 kPa, and removing the color stable organic compound as a side-stream from the distillation column, wherein the color stable organic compound has an APHA color value of 15 or less after being boiled for at least one hour at one atmosphere of pressure.

11. (currently amended) The process of claim 10 wherein the color stable organic compound is a C₁ to C₆ carboxylic acid.

12. (currently amended) The process of claim 11 wherein the color stable organic compound ~~carboxylic acid~~ is butyric acid.

13. (original) The process of claim 12 wherein the distillation column is operated at a temperature of about 170°C to about 180°C and at a pressure of about 101 kPa to about 202 kPa.

14. (currently amended) A process for preparation of [an] a color stable organic compound product, ~~having a stable APHA color value of 15 or less~~, selected from the group consisting of C₁ to C₆ carboxylic acids, ketones having boiling points from 154°C to 170°C, and esters having boiling points from about 168°C to about 250°C, the process comprising:

- (a) removing a crude product stream comprising the organic compound from a reaction zone in which the organic compound is prepared;
- (b) introducing the crude product stream into a distillation column having a lower portion and an upper portion wherein the upper portion and the lower portion are maintained at a temperature of about 23°C to about 250°C and at a pressure of about 10.1 kPa to about 202.6 kPa

- (c) removing the organic compound as a side-stream from the distillation column to recover produce a finished [the] organic compound; and
- (d) combining the ~~recovered~~ finished organic compound with water under conditions of agitation to form a mixture of the finished organic compound and water comprising from about 100 ppm to about 50,000 ppm water to produce the color stable organic compound product, wherein the color stable organic compound product has ~~a stable~~ an APHA color value of 15 or less after being boiled for at least one hour at one atmosphere of pressure.

15. (currently amended) The process of claim 14 wherein the water and the finished organic compound are combined to produce the color stable organic compound product at a temperature of about 0°C to about 160°C.

16. (currently amended) The process of claim 15 wherein the ~~water is combined with the organic compound under~~ conditions of agitation include stirring.

17. (currently amended) The process of claim 16 wherein the finished organic compound is a C₁ to C₆ carboxylic acid.

18. (currently amended) The process of claim 17 wherein the finished organic compound ~~carboxylic acid~~ is butyric acid.

19. (currently amended) The process of claim 18 wherein the water and the butyric acid are combined at a temperature of about 20°C to about 50°C and the color stable organic compound product ~~mixture of butyric acid and the water~~ comprises from 100 ppm to about 10,000 ppm water.

20. (currently amended) The process of claim 19 wherein the color stable organic compound product ~~mixture of butyric acid and the water~~ comprises from 500 ppm to about 1,000 ppm water.